

The Sugarloaf Interpreter

A Publication Of The
Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

Volume 1, Number 1

University of Minnesota, Duluth

Phone (218) 726-7201

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SUGARLOAF INTERPRETIVE CENTER ASSOCIATION is a Minnesota non-profit corporation with its purpose stated in the By-Laws as:

- 1) Committed to preservation and protection of a tract of land which includes Sugarloaf Beach, Cove and Point, a portion of which is a designated scientific and natural area that has statutory protection.
- 2) Committed to the establishment of a public interpretive forum which includes staff, an appropriate non-invasive physical facility, and ongoing, year-round educational programs. This center would depict the diverse aspects of the North Shore of Lake Superior including, but not limited to, geology, biology of native plants and animals, economic origins, history and cultural heritage.
- 3) Committed to obtaining adequate private and public funding to build and maintain the physical facility, establish a staff and programming, and create an endowment fund for the center's long-range future.

To fulfill these commitments, the Association is established for the collaborative efforts of many people and organizations of shared purpose.

ANNUAL MEETING

SUGARLOAF INTERPRETIVE CENTER ASSOCIATION
Saturday, July 17, 1993, at 10 A.M. - Birch Grove Elementary School
(located on Highway 61, Tofte)

NETWORKING MEETING A SUCCESS

Key representatives of these organizations were hosted by SICA on Saturday, June 12, 1993, at the Community Center of Two Harbors:

Department of Natural Resources
Gooseberry Interpretive Center
Grand Portage National Monument
Lake County Historical Society

Isaac Walton League
Parks and Trails Council
Save Lake Superior
Split Rock Lighthouse

Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association

The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information about each organization's purpose and future plans so that objectives common to all groups could be identified. With this information and mutual understanding, constructive networking can be explored: What resources can we share? On what projects can we collaborate? Can we join together to communicate effectively with the community?

The dialogue was cordial, truth-seeking, and purposeful; the worth of another meeting was clear, and it has been scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 1993, 9:30 A.M., Two Harbors Community Center.

Representatives or members of all organizations whose missions relate to SICA's mission are strongly encouraged to attend.

Furthermore, this newsletter seeks to publish a calendar of events of related organizations. Send a description of your event to us! We believe that a new level of collaboration and sharing is underway!

Sugarloaf Interpreter is published quarterly by Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association. Mary Alice Hansen, Editor; Emily E. Andersen, Copy Editor. Articles, graphic arts, and letters to the editor warmly encouraged. Subscription to *Interpreter* is one of the benefits of membership in SICA; single copies available upon request. SICA, 140 Engineering Building, College of Science and Engineering, UMD. Duluth, MN 55812

Introducing Our Founding and Charter Members
with Gratitude for Their Early Support

Student or Senior

Mary Melander
Marion L. Quick
Lorraine Rustari
Hazel Strese

Individual

Coral Berge
Dale Congdon
Mardene Eide
Meg Kearns
Joyce Klees
Helen Kruse
Duane Lund
J. F. Maclear

Senator Gene Merriam

Representative Willard Munger, Sr.

Debbie Ortman

Art Pihlaja

Tricia Ryan

Marcie Schlaeger

Cliff and Beryl Smith

Mrs. Lucille Tofte

Dave Zentner

Robert D. Zenz

Family

Verna Alt

Don I. Anderson

Linda and James Belote

Wayne L. Bjorum

Tim and Katie Dawson

Robert and Bette Dunn

Randy Eastlund and Jerry Lawson

Maria A. Giuliani

John Leinen Family

Gand Portage National Monument

H. James and Joan Hall

Ellen Hawkins and Rick Brandenburg

Chester and Iza Hedin

Ken and Margaret Hibberd

Jill Jacoby

Ken and Helen Klein

Harriett Lockrem

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Magney

Dan and Maryanne Norton

Clyde and Karen Ritchie

Bruce and Jane Schnabel

Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Sjoding

Steven J. Steinhagen

Supporting

Dr. Kim Chart and Luanne Chart

Dana Dickson and Julie Dahl

Janet and John Green

Mary Alice and Frank Hansen

Samuel H. Morgan

James and Franchelle Mullin

Howard E. and Bettye Olson

Steven Pihlaja and Lorrie Stromme

Art Fenstad

Martin and Ester Kellogg

Roger and Nancy Lienke

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Odegard

Herman and Marie Radeck

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar R. Rogier

Ann-Marie Rose and David Husom

Mary and James Saboe

Mrs. Thomas C. Savage

Willis E. and Jurine M. Schellberg

† Mrs. Leon C. Snyder

Superior Hiking Trail Association

John Velin and Julie Harper

Eric and Leanne Witzig

Fred Witzig

Sustaining

Tony Andersen

Emily E. Andersen

Merlin and Olga Berg

Alfred E. France

Charles Boone and Dr. Carol Heen

Robert L. and Geraldine Heller

Edward R. Landin

Barb Liukkonen

Mrs. Albert Marshall

Donna Petersen

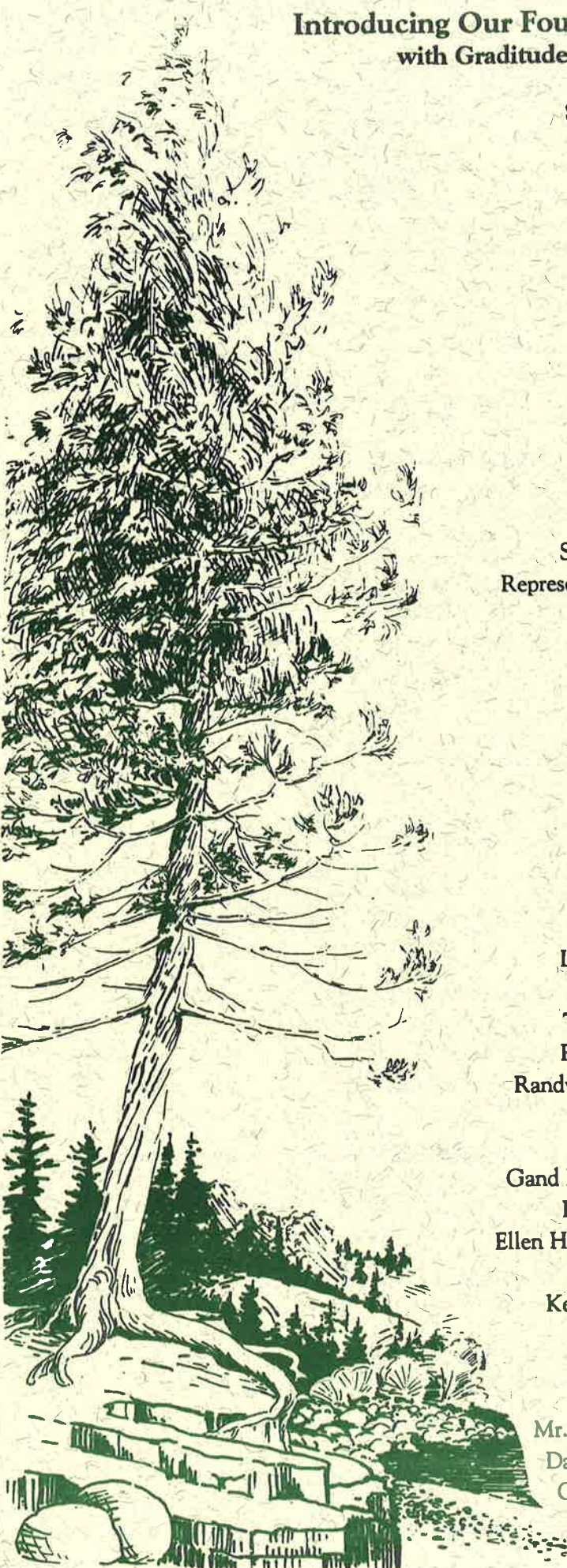
Joan Streobel


Patron

Caroline Miller

Benefactor

Elmer and Eleanor Andersen





Contributing
Chel Anderson
Kevin Bergstrom
Robert J. Bruce
Marion Calph
Kermit and Margaret Carlsen

Don and Peg Davison
Richard and Beatrice Ojakangas
Henry Somsen
Mary Storland
Loren Swanson

Dick Crawford Donates First Artifact

by Lorrie Stromme

The Sugarloaf Interpretive Center Association acquired its first archival material in a very special way: it was donated by a North Shore resident at SICA's first public informational meeting in October, 1992, in Schroeder. The donation was an 8mm color film of the last log-rafting operation by Consolidated Papers, Inc. at Sugarloaf Landing in 1971. The donor was the filmmaker, Dick Crawford, who was also an employee of Consolidated Papers and captured the historic event on film. Mr. Crawford continues to make his home in Schroeder.

Consolidated's logging operation at Sugarloaf spanned 28 years, from 1943 to 1971. The company harvested spruce pulpwood logs in the winter months and transported them to the shore of Lake Superior. Most of the logs were cut on the Caribou and Sawbill Trails. Starting in mid-June every year, the logs were sent down a chute on a bluff above the lake into the cove area at Sugarloaf Landing. The logs were formed into a giant teardrop-shaped raft. This was accomplished by making a necklace-like boom of 450 spruce logs, each measuring 3' x 22'. The floating logs were guided between the strands of the "necklace." Each raft contained about 3,000 to 5,000 cords of wood. The raft was formed in about three to four hours in good weather and in twelve hours in bad weather. The process of making up the rafts became such a tourist attraction that Consolidated set up viewing platforms.

A tugboat towed the raft 62 miles across Lake Superior to Consolidated's dock in Ashland, Wisconsin, at the rate of one mile per hour. Each trip took about 2 1/2 days. Since the rafts crossed shipping lanes and commercial fishing areas, the tugboat crew maintained constant weather and radar communications with other ships. The tug *Butterfield* was used for towing the rafts from 1922 to 1957 (including other North Shore rafting sites). Then, Consolidated obtained a diesel tug, the *John Roen III*, for the remainder of the rafting operations. The *John Roen III* was originally a fire boat for the City of Chicago. It was 118' long, with a six cylinder, 840 hp diesel engine, with pistons the size of pulpwood sticks. There were 13 in the crew. The *Roen* pulled smaller rafts than the *Butterfield*, but it made faster trips. About seven trips were made each season, from mid-June to September. Consolidated claims

that it never lost a raft, even during the worst storms. Over the 50-year rafting operation, tugs towed over two million cords of wood across Lake Superior (including rafts hauled from Grand Marais and Canada.)

Once the tugs reached Ashland, the towing boom was opened and the logs were guided into an 80-acre holding harbor, where workers known as "pokers," standing on floating docks, moved the wood to jack ladders using long poles. The jack ladders lifted the wood to cradles, from which the wood is then lifted by crane onto waiting gondola rail cars for shipment to inland pulp mills.

By 1971, Consolidated decided to discontinue log rafting in favor of rail hauling because of the need for fresher wood. Some of the rafted wood was six to twelve months old by the time it had been harvested and towed across the lake, and even then the wood might not be converted to pulp for several more months. Pulp from wood three months old or less had become the industry standard in the production of enamel printing paper.

Dick Crawford's film of the last logging operation has been transferred to a video format. The 15 minute video has been shown to receptive audiences at a series of public meetings sponsored by SICA. The video shows the harvested logs being loaded onto a flatbed truck during the winter in the North woods. Then, the truck proceeds along a snow-covered back road to Highway 61, where Sugarloaf is located at about mile marker 71. The logs are lifted off the truck by hydraulic arm and stacked on a bluff near the lake. The scene shifts to a summer scene, when the logs are moved to a chute on the bluff over the cove and sent crashing down into the lake below. There is even some footage showing the formation of the log raft.

Since the public reaction to the film has been so good, SICA has decided to have a video consultant make a few additions to the video, such as interviews with Dick Crawford and other Consolidated employees about the Sugarloaf logging operation, as well as footage of the tugboat trek across and the log poling operation in Ashland.

The original film is stored away safely, as a treasure should be.

Scientific and Natural Areas Along the North Shore

by Janet C. Green

In 1968, the State of Minnesota began to establish a system of public nature preserves that protect the rarest and most significant of Minnesota's natural features, including plant and animal species, native plant communities, and important geological sites. These places are called Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA's), the most protective land designation in our state. They are proposed, designated, and managed by the Department of Natural Resources with advice from the public through a citizens advisory committee. Located throughout the state, natural areas are established for a variety of purposes

- Places where the public can view rare plant and animal species or quietly appreciate and study nature in an unspoiled setting;
- Outdoor classrooms for teaching and research in the natural sciences;
- Research sites to gain insights into natural processes and as bench marks or reference points against which to measure changes in our environment.

State Scientific and Natural Areas are open to the public for nature observation, education, and research. However, they are sensitive areas that could be damaged if misused or overused. Therefore, activities such as picking flowers, hunting, snowmobiling, camping, and collecting rocks are generally prohibited.

Several SNA'S have been established in the eco-region known as the Lake Superior highlands, that strip of land along the North shore and inland to encompass the first range of hills. From north to south, they are:

- 1) Moose Mountain, 55 acres, established in 1989
- 2) Sugarloaf Point, 3 and 1/2 acres, 1992
- 3) Butterwort Cliffs, 53 acres, 1990
- 4) Spring Beauty Hardwoods, 400 acres, 1991
- 5) Hovland Woods, 280 acres, 1992

You are encouraged to enjoy these sites, to share them with others, and to protect their special values. As the recognition has increased of the importance of the biological diversity of our natural environment to human well being, so has the effort to protect these undisturbed remnants of our natural heritage.

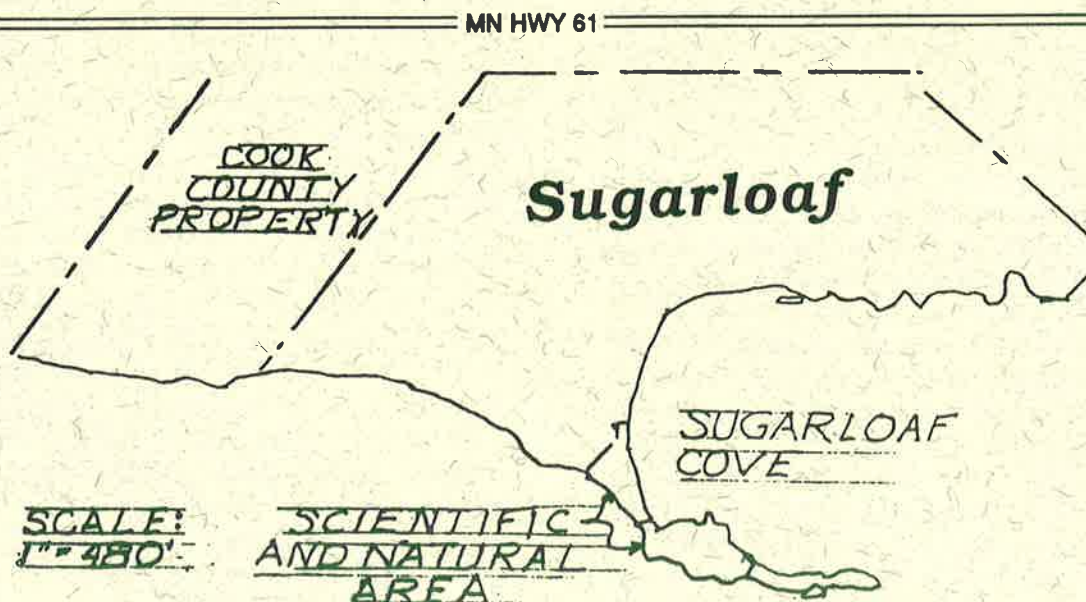
Sugarloaf

Sugarloaf Point contains pre-historic and modern beaches and a world-class example of the physical features of thin, fluid basalt lava flows of Pre-cambrian age. The North Shore Volcanic group in which these basalt features are found erupted during the development of the Mid-continent rift of North America about 1.1 billion years ago, and their lavas were never deformed or metamorphosed.

The beach is composed of well-rounded boulders, cobbles, and pebbles of a wide variety of rock types, some of which originated in Canada and were brought down by the Pleistocene ice sheet. On the point at the east end of the beach, wave action on the tilted lavas has produced excellent exposures of the surface and internal features of each lava flow. Their pipe amygdules (mineral fillings formed in the cavities of lava flows), and ropy, thin-bedded pahowhoe (smooth, undulating surface) can be clearly seen. Flows range from less than a meter to a few tens of meters thick. The range of eruptive style and clear exposure of flow mechanisms make Sugarloaf Point geologically unique.

(Editor's note: Geologists from all over the world are familiar with the remarkable characteristics of Sugarloaf, and visit with frequency.)

(This information abstracted from material provided by the Scientific and Natural Areas Program, DNR, Section of Wildlife, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155)



Located at mile marker 73, approximately 6 1/2 miles NE of Little Marais, MN